



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: NE116

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, and Perkins Counties, Nebraska

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Location of Position: Imperial, Nebraska 69033

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☒ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☒ Other : _Equine_____

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This area was designated as a shortage situation in 2010. We are resubmitting it for consideration because we believe the area continues to be underserved, therefore much of this application mirrors what we submitted last year. However, we have entered it as a "new application" because we have altered some language in order to fairly reflect a few changes since last year.

The objectives of the veterinarian filling the shortage situation in this area would be to assist in maintaining and improving animal welfare; maintaining the health of animals that contribute to an abundant, wholesome food supply; and maintaining and improving the veterinarian to food animal ratio. Further objectives would be to provide continuity for existing clientele and to fulfill the obligations of regulatory medicine for the State and Federal Governments. In addition, the state hopes to mitigate the vulnerability to emerging animal diseases by maintaining an appropriate veterinarian to animal ratio in this area.

According to NASS and AVMA, there are over 250,000 food animals in these counties, and only nine veterinarians. In Hitchcock County, with roughly 28,000 cattle, there are no veterinarians. Additionally, it is our understanding cattle numbers are increasing in this area of the state.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This veterinarian would become a skilled veterinary practitioner as well as increase the consulting time with clients through training in BQA/PQA, producer meetings, web sites and/or blogs. This veterinarian would also assist in improving the response time to animal emergencies in this large practice area and become proficient in regulatory medicine. The activities of this veterinarian will assist in developing and maintaining a community of sustainable food animal producers. Herds in this area have grown in size and sophistication of practices in recent years, so there is a need to have more time to consult with clients and practice preventative medicine. This includes maintaining appropriate training and conducting activities with clients that protect against contagious and foreign animal diseases.

An awardee in this area initially could expect to devote 40 percent of his/her time to food animal work.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Previous efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian to this shortage area included outreach to soon-to-be veterinary medicine graduates from colleges in neighboring states. Such outreach was successful in the previous year, with one clinic reporting the addition of a new veterinarian. However, retention of the new veterinarian is a concern when considering the amount of educational debt that needs to be serviced.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

While one practice hired a new veterinarian to replace a recent retiree, there is concern that veterinarian may be lost because it is difficult to fund the position at a level to meet educational debt needs. In addition, that same clinic has another partner who is nearing retirement. Therefore, without this veterinary position being secured, the area will continue to be underserved. This poor food animal to veterinarian ratio could adversely affect the welfare of food animals and negatively impact our safe, abundant food supply. Without adequate veterinarian expertise in

this area, the state would lose the necessary skills that: educate current and future producers on how to manage their animals; give producers the knowledge that allows them to better care for their livestock; and helps ensure a rapid response in the event of a disease situation.

Clients need access to sound veterinary advice and service related to practices that can improve the quality and integrity of their food animals. The importance of this point is bolstered by the fact that Nebraska regularly ranks at the top in annual red meat production and commercial cattle slaughter. Our state also is a major exporter of live animals and meats, so quality veterinary care that translates into healthy livestock is not just important for the veterinary clinics, but important for consumers in the state, nation and world who receive the end food product.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a “service in emergency” agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the “Service in Emergency” agreement.

NA in 2011 round

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dr. Dennis Hughes

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Email: Dennis.hughes@nebraska.gov

Telephone Number: 402-471-2351 or 800-572-2437
(Area code required)

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